

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 3.—(NO SCHOOL) Election Day
- Nov. 4 & 5— School Pictures
- Nov. 11— Virtual Q&A for 2021-2022 enrollment
- Nov. 10— Scholastic Book Orders due
- Nov. 18—AC Meeting 6:30pm
- Nov. 19— Virtual Q&A for 2021-2022 enrollment
- Nov. 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving Feasts & Services
- Nov. 24- Staff Meeting at 6:30pm
- Nov. 25-27- NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving
- Nov. 29 & 30th—Child's Play Fundraiser

# CCUMCP Parent Information

ENCOURAGING

NOVEMBER 2020

## Thanksgiving Pajama Drive (Nov. 23 & 24)

The Thanksgiving season provides us with a wonderful opportunity to teach our children and remind ourselves about the blessings that we enjoy that can be shared with others. This year at Thanksgiving the CCUMCP family will again join together to donate new pajamas for area children. This program is nationwide, but serves local communities. This means that every pair of pajamas donated will find its way to a child in our area. We are asking the children to bring those new pajamas or night-

gowns to school by November 23. Because of COVID re-



strictions each class will have its

own chapel service and Thanksgiving Feast within its classroom. **To drive the point home, we are asking children to wear their favorite pair of pajamas to school the day that they have chapel (either November 23 or 24).**

Talk to your child about this effort and involve your child in the process. **Make sure to bring in all pajamas and nightgowns by Monday, November 23.** Thank you so much for your help in this important effort.

## Encouraging Independence

In literature and in discussion among parents there is a great deal of consternation about how many high school and college age children in this generation are quite dependent upon their parents. Many aren't able to advocate for themselves with their teachers, navigate public transportation, make a phone call to ask for information, or apply for a job without

assistance from parents. At an age when they should be quite independent many of these kids display a shocking amount of dependence. As you can imagine, this dependence hampers them from moving into adulthood.

How do children become independent? Becoming fully independent occurs gradually after numerous

small attempts and successes at being independent. There are so many opportunities during the whole of childhood to take steps towards independence. These opportunities can begin prior to preschool, but become much more plentiful during the preschool years. There are so many age-appropriate ways of building the confidence and skills that lead to (Continued on Page 3)

# Mastering Cutting with Scissors

## Current Openings

Spaces are still available in our 2-day 2's, 3-day 3's, 5-day 3's and pre-K classes. If you know of someone who may be interested, please let them know.

## Preschool Tours

This year we are offering virtual Q & A sessions about the preschool for prospective parents wishing to enroll in the 2021-2022 school year. The next couple of dates are November 11 or 19 and December 2. If you have a friend or neighbor who is looking for a preschool, please have them contact Lee or Lauren to sign up for one of the Q & A sessions.

We will have 50 spaces for 2 year olds with options for 5-day, 3-day and 2-day classes as well as 10 spaces in our Hummingbirds class that starts mid-year. In addition, we always have spaces available in our 3 year old and pre-K classes.

As an assistant in a 2 year old class years ago I joked about the amount of cutting that was necessary for my job—I was constantly cutting out letters and shapes for art projects—and how delighted my preschool teacher would be to know that I was using what she taught me. While it is true that I perfected my scissor skills in kindergarten, children are now expected to enter kindergarten having mastered the art of cutting. This means that children need to work with scissors throughout their preschool years **beginning at the age of two.**

Obviously, using scissors is a skill that one utilizes for the whole of life so it is important to learn in itself, but the skills honed while mastering cutting are also helpful in other areas. According to OT Kimberly Wiggins in [Scissor Savvy—Part I](#), utilizing scissors

1. builds up the tiny muscles in one's hand that are necessary for handwriting, painting, using eating implements or just pulling up one's pants,
2. enhances hand-eye coordination necessary for sports or eating with utensils, for example,
3. and utilizes bilateral coordination which is using both halves of your body at the same

time. Bilateral coordination is used frequently. For example, whenever you zip up a jacket (you hold one part of the jacket with one side while pulling upwards with the other half), or walk.

The best scissors to use are child-safe scissors with the rounded edges. These scissors provide stability for developing hand muscles. Before the lesson begins, outline some rules of safety. Explain that scissors can cut and should be used carefully with an adult's supervision. Instead of outlining what they can't cut exclusively be sure to mention what they can cut. For example, "We never cut other people or animals. We use scissors to cut playdough, paper and fabric."

After the rules have been set forth, begin by showing them their thumb and demonstrating that when they want to cut their thumbs should face the sky. This will help children learn how to orient their hands in the scissors. Demonstrate for them how the thumb goes into one hole and the next two fingers go into the other hole. Help them open and close their fingers.

In another article Kimberly Wiggins mentions that learn-

ing to cut progresses in stages. At 2 yrs. of age children should be able to snip at the end of a piece of paper. (Note that this leaves out cutting through the paper completely and moving forward as one cuts.) Children move from snipping to cutting through paper to cutting straight lines, circles and then squares in the next 2 years of their development.

Like any other skill, cutting precisely takes practice. While they do get to practice at school, it is important that they have plenty of practice at home too so give them the opportunity. While you are preparing supper sit them at the kitchen table with some old newspaper or magazines and have them snip or cut at will.

If your child is having a great deal of difficulty, her hands may not be strong enough. Help her build her hand muscles by using tongs to pick up small objects or by manipulating playdough. These are fun activities that won't feel like work to her, but will build up her hand strength each time that they are done.



# Encouraging Independence (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)  
 ndependence. Begin by letting your child do for himself what he is capable of doing. This may take more time than you would like, but she can dress herself (or at least partially) and can begin brushing her teeth by herself. Doing so fosters a sense of capability. Likewise, giving your child jobs to do in the house also fosters

capability. A 2 year old can help prepare his snack for school, help set the dinner table and assist in washing windows. Obviously, as your child gets older he will be able to do more complex tasks.

Finally, give your child choices when appropriate. Let him choose between two different snacks or let her choose an outfit for herself

(though you may have to steer her to weather appropriate options). Or, let your child weigh in on a choice of books for bedtime reading.

If you have a caregiver for your child, it is important for you both to be on the same page so that your efforts will be reinforced. Before you know it, your child will be on the (long) road to independence.

*Get your preschooler involved in Thanksgiving. Let him/her make the centerpiece, help set the table, bake the dessert, say the prayer before the meal, or share what he/she knows about Thanksgiving with the adults at the meal. It will make the holiday meaningful to him/her and to you.*

## Developmental Screenings

Now is the time to complete your child's developmental screening which must be completed by December 23. Just go to <https://www.asqonline.com/>

[family/aad64b](https://www.asqonline.com/) to take the 15 minutes to complete the screening. If there are any issues of concern that arise from the screening, then your child's teacher and I will

contact you for a meeting or conversation. At that time we can recommend activities to support your child's growth or a referral to a professional if warranted.

## Thanksgiving Feast on November 23 & 24

Our classes will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24 with a feast in each classroom. Each class will have the chance to sample the ever traditional Thanksgiving offerings of turkey, muffins, cheese cubes and dried cranberries. And like the original Thanksgiv-

ing Feast--wink, wink—it will be concluded with the eating of decorated iced cookies. The important thing that they may learn is that the meal is a time to celebrate and be thankful with their (preschool) family.



Pilgrims and Native Americans at a previous feast

# Encouraging Independence (cont'd)

Normally at this time of year CCUMC would be hosting our Kindergarten Roundup event open to all parents in the pre-school and surrounding community. Unique to CCUMC, this morning long event has admissions experts from many of the area private schools as well as representatives from Rosemary Hills, our primary public feeder school, to speak with parents about the programs that they have for kindergarten and beyond. This helps parents to determine which schools to explore further. Because of the pandemic and because these schools are hosting frequent online events at this time, we will not be able to hold

the Kindergarten Roundup.

Instead, I invite parents to begin discussions with their child's teacher and with me about their child's placement the following year especially if you have questions concerning your child's readiness for kindergarten.

Applications for private schools will be due generally in January though application deadlines vary widely especially this year and may depend upon whether you are applying for the first time or with a sibling of a currently registered student.

In most cases parents should expect to solicit at least one letter of recommendation in support of

an application. We ask that you provide sufficient lead time to your child's teacher when requesting those letters. Please provide self-addressed stamped envelopes if the letters need to be mailed or a clear reference to an online address if that is the appropriate way to submit letters of recommendation. We must have a signed release from a parent in order to provide letters of recommendation. A release statement is most often found on the application itself, but, if not, please provide such permission.

## Did you know...

that if your child comes down with an illness requiring COVID testing on a Monday morning and you keep that child home from school that the class won't have to quarantine? That is because classes only have to quarantine if the child was present in class up to 48 hours prior to the onset of illness. So, please check out your child for symptoms **especially** carefully on Monday morning before sending to school.

# Child's Play Fundraiser November 29 & 30

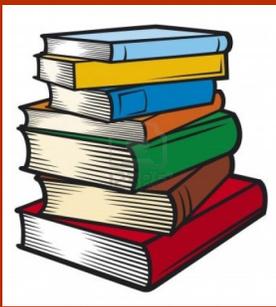
Before you know it you'll be prepping for Hannukah and Christmas, shopping for all of the children in your life. Shop online at [Child's Play](#), our great local toy store, and Child's Play will give back 10% of purchases to CCUMC. Beginning at 3pm on Sunday, November 29 through 11pm on Monday, No-

vember 30 shop online at Child's Play using a code we will provide closer to the event. There will be over 6000 items to choose from so mark your calendar now!! Items you purchase can be shipped, delivered locally or will be available for curbside pickup. Get your shopping done early and kick



## Top Ten Activities for Children When You Need 15 Minutes

1. Put on a book on CD or MP3—Kids can follow along themselves.
2. Blow up and tie off a balloon and have them play balloon volleyball alone or with a sibling.
3. Provide a spray bottle of water and a cloth. Point to a glass surface or table in need of “cleaning.”
4. Playdough!!
5. Watercolor paints and paper at the kitchen table.
6. Give them a sheet and ask them to make a fort out of the sofa cushions and sheet.
7. Put on some crazy music and have an old fashioned dance party.
8. Bring out that jar of buttons you have—from all of the extra buttons from new clothes—and let them sort them at the table.
9. Get out a puzzle or two.
10. Give them a pair of scissors and an old magazine or newspaper and have them practice cutting.



## November Book Recommendations\*

[I Voted: Making a Choice Makes a Difference](#) by Marc Shulman. Even the youngest child knows that something is going on right now that involves voting. This recently published book lays out in simple terms what voting is all about. I love this book. It even has some helpful facts in the final pages that your children will understand as they grow up.

[The Greatest Table](#) (start at minute 1:39) by Michael Rosen celebrates that each time we eat we are connected to the entirety of humanity and that there is always room for one more. It alludes to sustainable farming practices and care for the earth.

[Before We Eat: From Farm to Table](#) by Pat Brisson. As we prepare for Thanksgiving this book reminds us of all the people we must thank in order for us to be able to prepare that Thanksgiving meal. This book seems especially resonant as we have been reminded, during COVID, of how each person plays a part in making our daily lives function well.

[Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message](#) by Chief Jake Swamp. Written by a contemporary Mohawk Chief, this book is a celebration for the gifts provided by the earth.

[Thanksgiving Is For Giving Thanks](#) by Margaret Sutherland. This book reminds us all of the heart of the holiday which is giving thanks for our many blessings. The simple pictures and streamlined text are wonderful even for our youngest children.

[Cranberry Thanksgiving](#) by Wende Devlin. This book was one I remember from my childhood. Set in Maine, it is the story of a grandmother and her grandchild celebrating Thanksgiving with a dinner featuring her grandmother’s special cranberry bread. The child is told to invite someone to dinner who is poor or lonely. A story about acceptance, generosity and love. The book includes the recipe for the special cranberry bread and I remember making it with my mom after reading the book.

\* Links are to YouTube readings of each book.

# Travel Policy Reminder

Considering traveling for Thanksgiving? Please remember that if your family engages in nonessential travel to a state with a positivity rate of greater than 10% (i.e., positivity rate per capita), then your child must either:

1. Quarantine for 14 days before returning to school OR
2. Two days after returning, get a PCR test and return only when the results come back negative. The results of the test must be emailed to the preschool before returning to school.

## School Pictures on Nov. 4 & 5

Once again Tony from PictureArt will be here to take your child's school picture. He is a great photographer who captures the best of your child because he is so good at making them feel comfortable in front of the camera.

If you are interested in having sibling or family photos on the afternoons of either day, please call or email the preschool office to pick a time.

Any photographs ordered will be delivered to the preschool and distributed to you in time for Christmas.

Please see the schedule below to see which day your child's class will be taking a photo.

### **Wednesday, November 4**

Penguins, Orioles, Buntings, Owls, Starlings

Sibling, Alumni, Family Sessions  
12:30 pm. to 3 pm

### **Thursday, November 5**

Sparrows, Robins, Doves, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Eagles

Sibling, Alumni, Family Sessions  
1:15 pm - 5:00 pm